



## Maine Farmer.

ESTABLISHED 1831.  
GEO. E. BARNETT, Editor.  
Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

### Snow in Winter a Blessing.

Some people say they dread the approach of winter because of the dreary snow-storms and the difficulty of getting about while snow remains. In our northern latitudes, a continuance of cold weather without snow would be highly disastrous. It is true that when it has accumulated, after repeated storms, it is rather difficult to go where you wish, either on foot or with a team, without first expending a good deal of labor in "breaking tracks." Yet, after all, there are more facilities for getting about, by breaking tracks and with heavier loads than if the ground is bare. It is invariably the case among us, that a vast deal of labor, when tearing or hauling loads are concerned, is postponed until snow comes. To the common people, in this sense snow becomes the poor man's railroad, and the amount of work then performed, is a demonstration of the great use and blessing in this respect. But the greatest use and benefit of snow to us in the north, is as a covering and a protection to the earth. It acts as a blanket to the grass roots and other roots of plants and trees, keeping what heat of the earth there is, in its place. This it does in two ways: First, by preventing the heat from radiating into the air, and thus being lost. Second, by preventing the north winds, which always prevail at this season, from receiving the warmth of the earth as it rises and conveying it away. We often hear the remark that the wind, when the snow is on the ground, is much colder than it would be if the ground had been bare. And this is true. The north winds in winter, coming from the polar ice, and passing along over our lands when bare, take up the heat and become warmer and warmer the further they go until they become fully warmed. But, if the snow covers the ground, they cannot deprive the earth of any of its warmth, they therefore remain cold, and the benefit of snow upon our grass lands in winter, and the damage of being deprived of it was well demonstrated last winter and spring. February last was comparatively a warm month. The snow was of very little depth, and many fields were quite bare. March came on cold, and in the spring we heard an almost universal complaint that the grass, both in pasture and meadow, had been badly and extensively winter-killed, and for a time it was confidently predicted that we should have a very light crop of hay.

Trees and shrubs are also very much protected by snow lying about their roots. It is often observed that in very severe winters many of our indigenous shrubs are killed about the snow line, but are alive below it. The high blackberries or our waste lands, the black raspberry or thimble berries, and many others often exhibit this condition of things in the spring. In this the protective power of the snow is clearly demonstrated. It is used to be thought that snow contained a larger amount of nitrogen than rain water, and that the waters obtained by its thawing and running over the surface of the earth was in some degree a fertilizer. Hence, the frequent remark is made that fall in the spring have been called the "poor man's manure"—they being considered as acting as fertilizers spread equally on the poor as on the rich, and adding essentially to fertility of the soil.

From these considerations and facts, snow may be written down as a blessing instead of a curse, at least in northern regions, which are bound to have cold weather sufficient to keep the ground in a frozen state three months in the year.

### The Homestead Lands.

In his late report, the Secretary of the Interior gives the following result of transactions, under the Homestead Act, which went into effect the 1st of last January.

For the first six months, 1,040,988 acres were taken up, and for the quarter ending Sept. 30th, 415,526 acres were located, making an aggregate of over one million four hundred and fifty thousand acres in the space of nine months.

The Secretary recommends that no pre-emption be recognized in which the settlement is not continuous, and at least for the period of one year upon unoffered lands, and for the whole year on offered lands from the date of settlement. And further, that settlers upon unoffered lands shall be required to prove and pay up within two years from the date of settlement.

He also recommends, as there are many persons in the United States service who are unable to make action in person at the land office, as required by law, that their wives or representatives shall have the right to take the requisite steps with a view to obtain homestead claims in behalf of their principal, who may be in the naval and land service of the United States, and be further entering lands shall pay the full commissions where the entry is made.

### The Pork Record.

We continue our record of pig porkers, and would suggest to our friends who send in their "items," that a brief description of their method of feeding, &c., practiced to reach specimens, would be both interesting and valuable to our readers.

Asph Works, of the Farmers' Hotel, in this city, killed three pigs of the following ages and weight: One fourteen months old, weighing 313 pounds; one two years old, weighing 450 pounds, and one eighteen months old, weighing 606 pounds.

Simone Lombard of East Wilton, killed a pig six months and twenty-eight days old which weighed 335, and N. Haley of same town killed a seven months old weighing 365 pounds.

### Sheep Talk.

"I see in a late number of the Farmer you speak of the use of sulphur for destroying ticks on sheep."

Yes, have you any experience in its use? "It is my principal remedy, but I consider tobacco smoke the most effectual. Sulphur will answer a good purpose, but is costly, and troublesome to apply."

How do you suppose the sulphur operates to expel the ticks, when the sheep eat it?

"It is incorporated in the system, and is exuded through the pores of the skin, same as perspiration. This makes a disagreeable home for the ticks."

How about using tobacco smoke?

"Blow it thoroughly through the wool with a smoke-pipe, particularly on those parts of the body where they gather in the largest numbers, and I much prefer a pretty cold winter day for the operation, as the ticks, as they are driven from the body of the sheep by the smoke, will seek the outside of the fleece and be frozen to death."

What do you think of kerosene oil for this purpose?

"I have never used it, and would not recommend its use. I have seen some of its effects. I purchased a pair of Oxfordshire Down, from the book on Sears' Island, last year. They were fine animals, but during the winter the buck faltered, grew poor, and at last died. Upon inquiry I learned that he had been treated with kerosene oil to expel the ticks, and this was probably the cause of his death."

What breed do you keep?

"Primarily the Cotswold. I have a buck lamb which I paid \$50 for in Connecticut last summer. He is a full blood Cotswold, of fine proportions, and gives promise of superior excellence. I have christened him 'Side-walk.'"

Then you do not breed exclusively for wool?

"No; I think some of our sheep-growers are a little too much excited in regard to the Merinos; they are wholly interested in producing wool, without regard to the carcass or quality of the mutton. I have no doubt but wool will 'pay' for some time yet, but I cannot think of good policy to breed for nothing but wool, nor that it will be so well for the breeders and the country at large, when the reaction does come. A breed uniting the wool and the mutton producing qualities will then be in demand, and such a grade I am attempting to produce. It is a well known fact that the Merinos are the very poorest of mutton sheep, not only in carcass but their flesh is of a strong, disagreeable taste, which unites it for the table and the market."

To what do you attribute the poor quality of the Merino mutton?

"Why that is easily explained. They are peculiarly a wool producing breed, and almost the whole energies of the system are employed for that purpose. The food which is assimilated goes to produce wool and the yield which gives the peculiar quality to the fibre. As the old and true saying is, 'you cannot have your bread and eat it too,' so we cannot have a large wool producing breed which will at the same time make good mutton. What we want is a judicious mixture, a cross of the two, which shall give us a grade that shall include the desirable qualities. It is a well known fact that we are not a mutton eating people, and the principal reason I consider is that there is such a strong infusion of the Merino blood among our flocks that the mutton is disagreeable to the taste. How much better it would be for us, if like the English people, we ate more mutton and less pork, but such will not be the case until we have mutton, and a plenty of it which is fit to eat, and this cannot be, so long as the Merino is made the pet breed, and the production of wool is the grand object to be attained, as at present."

### Chinese Sheep.

Geo. Haskell, of Ipswich, Mass., writes as follows to the Country Gentleman in regard to the Chinese sheep:

"Augustine Heard, the founder of the mercantile house which bears his name in China, during his residence in that empire some 25 years ago, went home to his farm in this town a select flock of these sheep. Some of that race were kept up to the present time. We had a fine crop of wool the last of them were sold to the butcher for \$2.50 per head. These sheep spread to other farms, and have been universally found both undesirable and unprofitable. All that can be said in their favor is, they are large, docile, and very prolific. But when obtained of good size and in great numbers, they are not good for either wool or mutton. The wool is of medium length, rather coarse, and thin in the fleece. When the fleece is parted the wool is of a beautiful, glossy, nearly whiteness, and if it were worked alone, I should think it would make a beautiful fabric. At present it is obtained by the wool-pullers. Not are they better for tail. All the fat is on the rump and tail. The tail is long and from five to nine inches broad at the top, and is a perfect 'cub' of fat. The kidney does not fill out—the loin is thin—the leg joint and stringy; and the fore-quarter is as blue and lean as that of an unfed sheep of the common breed."

Another correspondent of the same journal, who thinks he got "slightly bit" in purchasing them at a high price, says:

"A buck to weigh 200 pounds dressed, weighs 150 pounds live weight in high order; ewes to lamb twice each year are not forward in lamb in six months; sheep that were to be shorn twice each year to prevent shedding their wool, have no longer cost than is necessary to protect them from the usual cold; a buck that was to shear ten pounds of wool worth 40 cents in the New York market twice each year, out two and three quarters pounds worth washing, in June last, and has not that on him at this time."

### Cutting Steaks.

Early winter is, perhaps, the best season for cutting steaks which are intended for use in coming spring. Plum and pear grafts in particular should be cut at this season, as the cold of winter injures them, and prevents them making a vigorous growth after being set, but if cut now and rightly preserved they will be all right for use in the spring. They may be safely and securely kept by packing in sand, earth, or better still, damp moss, and kept till wanted for use, as a more simple method, and perhaps as good as any, is to tie them in bundles and place them but end down, in the damp earth in the bottom of the cellar. There is one particular which should always be carefully attended to, and that is to label them correctly at the time they are cut, as this will prevent mistakes and much vexation.

### Arrostook Crops.

A correspondent of the Hallowell Gazette writes as follows of the crops in Arrostook County this year:

"A few words respecting this 'North East corner of creation.'—The hay crop of this county was very good, and the hay season was so dry and favorable that the crop was secured in unusually good order. Potatoes are excellent, both as to quality and quantity. The dry rot, which affected potatoes last year to the extent of about one-tenth of the crop, is this year unknown."

The turnip crop, which is here quite an important one, I judge to be considerably less than usual, on account of dry weather the first part of the season. This first prevented the seed from germinating well, and afterward from getting a good start."

Wheat is almost a failure this season, on account of the wet and blight. It is true that many pieces yield from 12 to 15 bushels per acre, but there are more that yield less. The wheat, however, is of excellent quality. Other grain crops were about as usual. Corn did well this year where it was planted in season on high land. I had some that ripened well, planted on the 21 of June. Beans have been a very profitable crop for the last two years. They have yielded 20 to 40 bushels on burnt land, and last spring were worth \$3.50 to 4.00 at Fort Fairfield and Presque Isle."

### The Department of Agriculture.

We so stated by an exchange that the Commissioner of Agriculture asks for an appropriation of \$155,700 for carrying on operations in his Department the coming year. Of this amount \$41,000 are for the salaries of the commissioner, &c.; \$23,000 is for the collection of agricultural statistics in twenty-three local States; \$5,000 for the purchase of cereals, vegetables, and flower seeds; \$32,000 to pay for putting them up in bags; \$10,800 for the propagating garden, including \$2,000 for the purchase of trees, cuttings, vines, and bulbs; \$5,000 for the experimental garden.

We much doubt the expediency of appropriating \$92,000 for seeds, unless the method of distribution is to be different from what has been employed, and they are of more value than any heretofore sent out.

### LINIMENT FOR SWELLINGS.

A writer in the Country Gentleman says an excellent liniment for swellings on man or beast can be made by mixing the following:

"Half an ounce of spirits of hartshorn, one gill of spirits of turpentine, one pint of sweet oil, pint alcohol, and two ounces of gum camphor—the camphor to be dissolved in the alcohol. Apply once a day and rub briskly."

### Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

#### Letter from Illinois.

Messrs. Editors:—Having a spare moment to-day, I will send you a few notes on matters and things in Illinois. We had a fine crop of wheat. We hear of some fields going as low as six bushels per acre, while others range to thirty and above. The crop will average through the country probably about twenty bushels per acre. Rye and barley were very good, yields never so well-seventy to eighty bushels per acre was not an uncommon yield, and for winter wheat the average was about fifty at least, which, at present prices, sixty to sixty-five cents, makes it a very comfortable as well as profitable crop to raise.

To winter wheat the average of September frosts and its effects on buckwheat and corn, I fear would be a "twice told tale." Of the former not a bushel was raised, and the raw material for making whisky is scarce. Corn is in the New York, and perhaps from Maine, while of the latter not more than one-fourth an average crop will be realized, and much of it a poor quality at that.

I think the estimates of the Department of Agriculture, respecting the deficiency of the corn crop in the West, will prove to be much too low. For instance, this town and the town adjoining in the west, put in the present year, 10,000 acres, the deficiency on which will be at least 200,000 bushels. While on account of our geographical position, the deficiency in other portions of the country will be greater by the same ratio, will be much more. I notice some of the eastern papers report at the idea of a short crop, and a late "Commercial Bulletin" asserts that the high price of corn is caused by an actual deficiency, but by speculation and by farmers holding back or hoarding their grain, as he expresses it, for high prices. Farmers have never "thrown their grain upon the market" more freely than this season; grain having brought good prices, and they were generally disposed to "realize" rather than run the risk of a decline. The West was never so bare of grain at this season of the year, as it is at the present time. Our crop of corn is now in store in Chicago, shows there is not a heavy supply held on speculation in that market. There being over a million bushels less corn than one year ago. A sight of the empty cribs, which, on almost every farm, are now empty, and with a ghastly smile, would convince the most incredulous of Boston editors that for a season, the raw material for his luscious pudding will only be obtained by paying a high price for it.

We have had a fine season for our sheep, and a plenty of it which is fit to eat, and this cannot be, so long as the Merino is made the pet breed, and the production of wool is the grand object to be attained, as at present."

### Grinding Bones—Top Dressing Grass Land with Bone.

I have always bought bones in the ground state. I have never attempted to grind or pulverize them, and do not think it can be done well or economically upon any farm, as it requires a great deal of heavy machinery to do it thoroughly. They are ground at two or three establishments in this State, and can usually be bought at the Agricultural stores in Boston at \$35 to \$50 per ton. It does not injure the bone to boil it. Indeed, the best bone I have used was bought of a tallow-chandler, who had steamed the bone at a high temperature to extract all the grease. I do not think this process added anything to the value of the bone; but I was sure of getting fresh bones, (which are much the best,) as old and dried bones would not be subjected to this process, though they are collected and ground for use in large quantities.

I can give a reliable answer to the inquiry as to the value of bone as a top-dressing for grass land. Fermented or rotted turpentine the cheapest and most active and permanent manure that can be applied. I have used much of it in that manner, and can speak with confidence in the matter. I have used it on old sward and when seeding down to grass, grass grown in 17 acres of land in 1848 and 1855, with no other manure than 500 lbs. of bone and 250 lbs. of guano, to the acre. It has been mown every year since with no diminution of the crop. The quality seems to have overleaped the obvious truth that organic substances must be disorganized by natural processes before their elements can enter into new combinations. There is no exception to this law. Bone, fresh meat, blood, recently void-

### Receipt for Making Bread.

Messrs. Editors:—In compliance with the request of a contributor to your paper, I send you my receipt for making "alkali crumpling bread."

Take equal parts of new milk and boiling water; add four till it is of the consistency of very thin batter, and a little salt. Let it stand in a warm place as possible without scalding. This should, when well risen, constitute about one-half the mixing for the bread—the remainder being equal parts of milk and boiling water. Add equal parts of milk kneaded, put in the pans and keep it warm till sufficiently risen; then bake in a moderate oven.

Mrs. H. G. LOVELL.

Albany, Dec. 18, 1863.

### Agricultural Miscellany.

#### English Farming.

Our readers will be interested in the following account of "high farming" practiced in England:

But, Mr. Mechi, how do you manage to keep so much stock on 170 acres? I see that you have 70 head of bullock and cow stock, young and old, and 100 sheep, besides pigs, all in a growing condition. You have 100 acres in corn every year; you have very little grass land, and yet see a good hay and clover stack. Tell us how you manage this.

These remarks are so often made by my half-brother, that I propose giving the explanation, hoping it may be useful. My first object is always to have a very full crop, by deep cultivation and plenty of manure.

I have generally—Twelve to fourteen acres of winter turnips, mowed and brought home to be used for cattle and horses. The land is then heavily manured, deeply trench-plowed, and three acres planted with seed of June with cattle cabbage, which are now a heavy crop. The other three acres have white turnips. Eight acres of rape taken after white peas picked for the London market, and the remainder of the year past. Twelve acres of Italian ray-grass, half first year, half second year's growth. Seven acres of grass land, fed to 12th May; then irrigated, cut in June for hay, producing two tons per acre; gathered and stacked under the eaves, and removed, and grazed subsequently with calves and cows. In winter sheep folded upon it, eating cabbage, mangels, mangel, and turnips.

I have now 100 lambs in fold eating green rape, and they receive every evening in their fold four bushels of wheat chaff, two bushels of red clover chaff, two bushels of cotton cake, one bushel of oats, one bushel of bran, and one bushel of molasses.

In this mixture there is the proper material for building the animal frame; they manure the ground heavily; there is no loss by scouring, and they grow fat. When water or buttermilk is used, the water is poured over the rape, and the rape is then cut by the hand, and a pebble in his shoe is pressing fearfully on a bunion; but at the head he finds temporary relief, and a small can of weak barley. Reckoned by the time the young fellow is in the legs, he pushes on with zeal—possibly thinking of Burns, and how he labored in glory and in joy.

"Behind his plough,"

—and wondering if he really did! There are no "wet-plough" daises to beguile him; not a mouse is stirring; only a pestilent mosquito is swarming round him, and he is a fine animal, and a pebble in his shoe is pressing fearfully on a bunion; but at the head he finds temporary relief, and a small can of weak barley. Reckoned by the time the young fellow is in the legs, he pushes on with zeal—possibly thinking of Burns, and how he labored in glory and in joy.

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### Farm Accounts.

The tradesman, the mechanic, and the manufacturer, all have their account book upon which they enter all the transactions of the day, and by which at the close of the year they are enabled to learn the gain or loss upon every article of merchandise or job of work, and the result of every day's labor and every dollar's expenditure.

But the farmer who has an equal need with them of the fullest knowledge he can obtain of his affairs at all times, very seldom puts pen to paper with a view to ascertain the gain or loss of the various transactions of his business, which are often large, and never of any less importance than those of his neighbors.

There are some few and rare exceptions to this general custom of neglect, and those exceptions are the men by whose experience the farmer, as a class, are most benefited. Realizing that farming is no hap-hazard employment, but an earnest, serious business of dollars and cents, they seek to know with mercenary accuracy, the gain or loss of every outlay, and the cash value of every labor or experiment, by a systematic record of their transactions. And so year by year they accumulate knowledge, and the result is that they are able to avoid mistakes and losses, and to secure more certain and adequate rewards for all their trials. There are few farmers in proportion to the number, who are in the habit of keeping a record of their business, and who can tell at the close of the year, the number of tons of hay, or the number of bushels of grain and roots which they have raised during the past season, or the relation which present prices bear to the cost of their production.

Those who have never kept an accurate system of farm accounts, in which the land is charged with the labor bestowed, and the estimated cost of manure and other expenses, and who do not carefully weigh or measure, can but faintly realize what a source of pleasure and profit such a system would be to them. And so in regard to all the details of their business, they are in the dark, and are unable to estimate the value of their stock. The food given to a fattening animal, even if it is to be slaughtered for the farmer's own family, is in reality a transaction of dollars and cents, and should be so treated. The farmer should weigh the weight and value of the meat, just what his profit or loss has been.

It is an easy thing to estimate the cost of producing a bushel of corn, a ton of hay, or a quart of milk, and to stop the production of any particular crop when it ceases to pay. But how few there are who have ever taken the trouble to estimate the cost and strike the balance of profit and loss, in the making of their various crops. We have a more general attention to this matter among farmers, we should have many less complaints of the small profits and uncertainty of the business, and the delusion of the farmer's accounts would always suggest the mistakes and errors of the past, and point out new and better modes of practice in the future.

To compare the operation of success, it is just as indispensable that the farmer should keep accurate accounts with their stock and lands, as with their customers. They are just as necessary to the farmer as the day-book and the ledger are to the merchant, or the chart and compass to the mariner. And as the season approaches for closing up the business of the year, making settlements, forming new resolutions for progress and improvement, and turning over a new leaf in the calendar, we trust that there are many of our readers who will so far realize the advantage to be derived from it, as to commence a daily journal of the transactions of the farm with the opening year.—Pleasant.

### Planting Large and Small Potatoes.

A writer in the Country Gentleman gives the following results of some recent experiments with planting large and small potatoes, which may prove interesting to our readers:

The results of the experiment were in no instance more than an inch and a half long, and would average about the size of small plums. The large ones were from four to ten inches long and would weigh from one to two pounds each. Both the large and small potatoes were set out as late as possible, and were in the ground for about six weeks, and were then closely examined by several persons, and the smallest difference could be perceived in the size of the potatoes. On being measured, however, the large potatoes were found to be, on an average, one-fifth more than the smaller. The variety was the Prince Albert. This result was the more striking, as one of the rows planted with large potatoes (single potatoes of which weighed as much as eighty of the smaller ones) yielded no larger tubers than the smallest seed.

The crop, from all the rows alike, was a good one, and the small potatoes were found to be the smallest seed, were from 8 to 10 inches long. We have tried this experiment but a single year; it is a common opinion that if repeated for several successive years, it will, if small potatoes are planted successfully, be ultimately run out. We have no personal knowledge of such a result, and it is worthy of careful experiment. At the same time the series of trials here reported show conclusively that farmers may use small seed for raising the main crop for consumption, so far as the size of the potatoes are concerned, although losing something in amount, but saving in the cost of the seed, and the cost of the field should be planted with large potatoes for seed. As potatoes are now high priced, it may be for farmers to save their small ones for seed, and use the large ones for food. We devoted each year to a set of experiments may give them results of considerable practical value. They should, however, be made in mind that small seed are often planted in a small portion of the field, while large seed are planted in the remainder, and the best advantage is taken of the best chance and the best cultivation.

It would seem that the chief advantage in large seed is in giving an earlier start and stronger growth, resulting in a larger crop—but the experiment must be repeated and varied many times before confident results can be reached.

### The Poll Evil in Horses.

Some persons regard the poll evil as incurable. It is sometimes called fatal. No matter how long the sore has been running, it can be cured in a brief time, and at a cost not exceeding ten cents. One dime spent in muriatic acid will be a radical cure for the poll evil, and the cure of the most stubborn fistula. The sore should be first thoroughly cleaned with some astringent fluid, and for this purpose pure water is perhaps as valuable as anything that can be used, and drop a few drops of the acid in, twice a day till it has the appearance of a fresh wound; then wash clean with soap suds made of Castile soap, and leave it to heal, which it will speedily do. The acid has been used long enough. Should it, however, heal slowly, apply the acid a second time, and in a manner above described, taking care to wash out the pipe thoroughly, and it will be found an infallible cure for the poll evil, and all diseases of this sort; but it must be remembered that in order to do so, the acid must be applied till the corrupt or diseased flesh is all burned out.

### Water Proof Boot Soles.

If hot tar is applied to boot soles, it will make them water proof. But if the tar is applied without any preparation, it will wear off in a short time, and the boot will be without any protection, and drying it in by fire. The operation may be repeated two or three times during the winter, if necessary. It makes the surface of the sole quite hard, so that



Augusta, Thursday, Dec. 31, 1863.



THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Latest Telegraphic News.

**FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.**  
**ANOTHER BRILLIANT FEDERAL RAID.**  
North Carolina Rebels Taking the Oath of Allegiance.  
**THE REBELS REFUSE TO TREAT WITH GEN. BUTLER.**  
**NEWS FROM REBEL SOURCES.**  
**BOMBARDMENT OF CHARLESTON.**  
Joe Johnston in Command of Bragg's Army.  
**TWO OF THE CHESSAPEAKE PIRATES ARRESTED IN ST. JOHN.**  
**TWO DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.**  
**THE PROPOSED EUROPEAN CONGRESS GIVEN UP.**  
**Conflict between the Danish and German Troops Inevitable.**  
**TWO AMERICAN SHIPS CAPTURED BY THE ALABAMA.**

New York, 25th. The Tribune's army despatch states that the cavalry has returned to the Rebel Station having made a successful raid among the rebels and driving the guerrillas in the mountains and destroying at Surry an extensive Saddle and Harness Factory and large Tannery. Five other tanneries were destroyed between Joppatowne and Joppatowne.

A rebel mail and a quantity of medicines and dry goods were captured. Quite a number of prisoners were captured during the raid. Several brilliant skirmishes were had.

New York, 25th. The new oath of allegiance has been administered to a number of rebels and soldiers who have recently come into our lines to accept the pardon offered by President Lincoln. They bring intelligence from a number of rebel regiments and likewise at the earliest opportunity.

Late Wilmington papers announce the arrival at that port of blockade runners in great numbers. A refugee who has just arrived here says that 23 arrived the night before last.

A fire broke out at the schooner Marshall J. Smith, laden with cotton and turpentine, bound from Mobile to Havana, and captured by the Union navy. The schooner was captured by the Union navy. The schooner was captured by the Union navy. The schooner was captured by the Union navy.

Fort Monroe, 25th. The flag of truce has arrived from City Point with 500 Union prisoners in exchange for those sent up by Gen. Butler.

The rebel government has refused to exchange unless all the questions are given up about which our government are contending, and their (rebel) law in regard to officers and soldiers is given up. The rebel government has refused to exchange unless all the questions are given up about which our government are contending, and their (rebel) law in regard to officers and soldiers is given up.

They also refuse to receive a flag of truce from Gen. Butler or to negotiate with him on the subject of exchange because of Jeff. Davis's proclamation outlawing Gen. Butler last night. It will be remembered they were quite willing to receive a flag of truce and to correspond with him notwithstanding the proclamation which they now make a pretext for disavowing the prisoners with Gen. Butler.

The Richmond Examiner contains the news that the city last night, keeping up a steady fire, in 12 buildings, and causing a few casualties. There is heavy firing in the direction of the front lines, and the shells of the city continued today. One white man was mortally wounded, and several others were injured by the falling walls of burning buildings, and eight or ten were slightly wounded.

All quiet at Sumter.

CHARLESTON, 26th. From 12 o'clock Thursday night to Friday afternoon 150 shells were thrown at the city. The enemy fired from Fort Moultrie, Fort Johnson and from the batteries on the island of Morris, and from the batteries on the island of Morris, and from the batteries on the island of Morris.

The engagement on Johnson's Island between our light batteries and the rebel batteries was continued on Friday. There were few casualties.

DALTON, Ga. 27th. Gen. Joseph R. Johnston assumes command of the rebel army in Georgia. He has 20,000 men, and is reported to be moving south of the city.

ORANGE CO., Va. 24th. The Yankees destroyed part of the town of Lenoir, Pa. by fire. The town was burned to the ground. The town was burned to the ground. The town was burned to the ground.

**The Record of the War.**  
**FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.**  
**THE CONDITION OF THE ARMY.**  
New York, Dec. 22. The World's headquarters army of the Potomac despatch says that at the present time the army is in a state of comparative quiet. It has been since it is re-crossed the Rapidan. As far as we can judge the rebels have not changed their position. Our men have made for themselves a position of comparative quiet. It has been since it is re-crossed the Rapidan. As far as we can judge the rebels have not changed their position. Our men have made for themselves a position of comparative quiet.

**News from Longstreet—Concentration of Rebel Troops in Georgia.**  
PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22. Richmond papers of the 20th have despatches from Gen. Lee, saying that Longstreet, with his army, were advancing, and no doubt a severe battle would be fought in the vicinity of Jonesboro, Tenn. Longstreet's army was moving on to the north, and was in the vicinity of Jonesboro, Tenn. Longstreet's army was moving on to the north, and was in the vicinity of Jonesboro, Tenn.

Foreign News.

**FIVE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.**  
The steamer Dora from Liverpool Dec. 23, and London 11th arrived at Portland Dec. 23.

**Great Britain.**  
Advised by the City of London were regarded as highly favorable to the Federals. It was so depressing to the associates that the Confederate loan fell to 35 cents.

The prize fight on the 10th of Dec. between John C. Heenan the American champion and King an English prize fighter, resulted in the defeat of Heenan in twenty-four rounds. The betting on the previous day was 6 to 4 on Heenan, the backers of King taking 7 to 4 freely.

Rumors were current that Heenan was in an alarming condition, but the punishment he received, but they proved unfounded.

The death of Lord King is confirmed. It took place on the 25th of November.

**Movements of Confederate Privateers.**  
It is stated that the private Alabama was expected at Machas, and remittances have been made to that port to meet her disbursements.

The steamer Vanderbilt left Mauritius on the 10th of October for the Cape of Good Hope. Captain Baldwin having been notified of her appearance off Ceylon.

The Florida and Georgia are being rapidly fitted out at Bristol and Chong respectively. The former was expected to put to sea in a few days.

The Rappahannock was being rapidly completed at Chatham.

**The European Congress.**  
It is reported that negotiations were going on between France and the various European powers to determine if the Congress shall go on without England. The reply of Austria is published. It fully sympathizes with the Union, and is in a position, but wishes before taking part to learn with some accuracy the basis and programme of the Congress.

The points out that there would be less danger of accident if the questions for discussion be indicated before hand. In an accompanying letter, Count Reichenberg asks how Napoleon's declaration relative to treaties of 1815 is to be understood.

**Denmark and Schleswig Holstein.**  
It is reported that the President of the German Federal Diet has notified the Danish Government, in a letter dated Dec. 18, 1863, that he is in a position to comply with the demands of the Diet, the Federal troops will enter Holstein.

In the Prussian Chamber of Deputies a bill has been introduced for the purpose of raising 10 millions of thalers to meet the expenses of extraordinary military measures, caused by the affairs of Schleswig Holstein. The minister requested a speedy decision.

The Diet of Sweden was closed on the 8th. The King in his speech, said: "Our interests are not yet settled, and we must therefore be connected with the maintenance of the peace and rights of nations. The Swedish nation feels deep sympathy and sorrow for the dangers which impend over the King and people of Denmark."

The English journals look upon the Danish German question as more pacific, but the German press is still in a state of excitement. The Federal execution in Holstein by a small majority and resorted itself to the settlement of the question of succession. The order for troops to enter the Duchy was immediately despatched.

**The Reported Disaster at Charleston a Foreboding Omen.**  
New York, Dec. 23. The Tribune's Washington despatch says the paragraph, ostensibly telegraphed from Fort Monroe, purporting to give extracts from Richmond papers of the 15th with regard to the burning of the city, and the destruction of the city, and the destruction of the city, and the destruction of the city.

**THE CATTLE MARKET.**  
AT BOSTON, CAMBRIDGE AND MEDFORD.  
The following is the amount of stock reported at market.

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Special Notices.

**NO MAGAZINE.**  
Newman among the names of the names as those constituting the regular staff of writers for the Atlantic Monthly.

**THE BEST AMERICAN WRITERS.**  
Continued regularly in the Atlantic Monthly, under the names of the names as those constituting the regular staff of writers for the Atlantic Monthly.

**Atlantic Monthly.**  
Continued regularly in the Atlantic Monthly, under the names of the names as those constituting the regular staff of writers for the Atlantic Monthly.

**ALL TO BE SOLD FOR ONE DOLLAR EACH!**  
100 Gold Hunting Case Watches \$100.00 each  
100 Gold Case Watches \$50.00 each  
100 Silver Watches \$25.00 each  
100 Gold Case Watches \$10.00 each  
100 Silver Watches \$5.00 each  
100 Gold Case Watches \$2.50 each  
100 Silver Watches \$1.25 each  
100 Gold Case Watches \$0.625 each  
100 Silver Watches \$0.3125 each

**REASONS WHY.**  
We should supply our country with our own goods. We should supply our country with our own goods. We should supply our country with our own goods.

**NEW STOCK AND NEW STORE.**  
The subscriber, later senior partner of the firm of WILLS & LORRICK, has removed to the new store, 100 Broadway, New York.

**FAMILY GROCERIES.**  
WHICH WILL BE SOLD AT A SMALL ADVANCE.  
The stock was bought for cash, and selected from some of the best houses in Boston and New York. The goods are fresh and of the highest quality.

**ONE PRICE SYSTEM.**  
The subscriber, later senior partner of the firm of WILLS & LORRICK, has removed to the new store, 100 Broadway, New York.

**PROPOSALS FOR WOOD.**  
Sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned at 100 Broadway, New York, on Saturday, January 24, 1864, at 12 o'clock M., for the supply of wood for the use of the United States Army.

**DR. J. J. LORRICK.**  
Formerly of Portland, is now located at New York City, where, in connection with general practice, he will, as heretofore, pay special attention to the treatment of the various diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat.

**WANTED.**  
A private family near the city of Boston, a capable AMERICAN COOK, who understands plain cooking, and is willing to do the ordinary work of the family, can have a good home and wages. Address, with references, terms, &c., to J. J. LORRICK, 100 Broadway, New York.

**FREEDOM NOTICE.**  
This may certify that I have given to my son, Ebenezer B. Williams, Jr., his time during his minority, and I shall claim none of his wages nor pay any debts of his contracting after this date. Signed, J. J. LORRICK, 100 Broadway, New York.

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY.**  
A TEACHER. School contains 60 to 75 scholars. Must be well recommended. Apply to the undersigned, at 100 Broadway, New York.

**HERE'S YOUR GOOD BARGAIN!**  
The subscriber, having returned from the "Far West" with a large quantity of goods, is now offering them at a great discount. Address, with references, terms, &c., to J. J. LORRICK, 100 Broadway, New York.

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY.**  
A TEACHER. School contains 60 to 75 scholars. Must be well recommended. Apply to the undersigned, at 100 Broadway, New York.

PORTLAND & KENNEBEC RAILROAD.

**WINTER ARRANGEMENT.**  
COMMENCING NOVEMBER 30, 1863.  
Passenger Trains leave as follows:  
From Portland to Kennebec, daily, at 8 A.M.  
From Kennebec to Portland, daily, at 8 A.M.  
From Portland to Kennebec, daily, at 2 P.M.  
From Kennebec to Portland, daily, at 2 P.M.

**NOTICE TO WESTERN TRAVELERS.**  
For Tickets and other information, apply to  
J. W. LORRICK, Agent, Portland, Me.  
Augusta, Nov. 6, 1863.

**RATES OF FARE:**  
Augusta to Portland, \$2.00  
Portland to Augusta, \$2.00  
Augusta to Portland, \$2.00  
Portland to Augusta, \$2.00

**PORTLAND AND KENNEBEC RAILROAD.**  
The Portland and Kennebec Railroad, Capt. W. LORRICK, will run regular trains, daily, between Portland and Kennebec, Maine, and will also run regular trains, daily, between Portland and Kennebec, Maine, and will also run regular trains, daily, between Portland and Kennebec, Maine.

**WHEELER & HOBSON.**  
No. 4 Bridge Street, Augusta, Me.  
HAVE IN STOCK A FULL ASSORTMENT OF DRY GOODS.  
In every variety, consisting in part of:  
Fancy Silks, Plain Silks, Figured Black Silks, Plain Black Silks, AT VERY LOW PRICES FOR THE TIMES.

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